LIFE IN NATURE ON LAKE MICHIGAN

New Buffalo Times

NEWS $1

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issue 24, volume 83 www.newbuffalotimes.com Thursday, June 13, 2024

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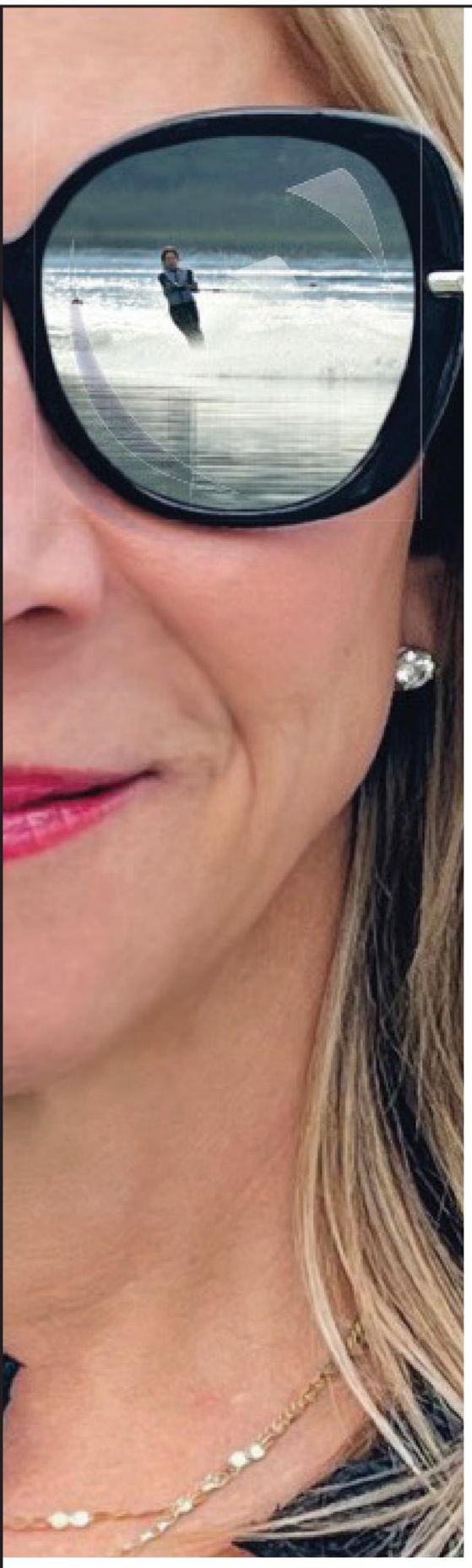
PHOTO OF THE THREE OAKS AMERICAN LEGION COLOR GUARD MARCHING DOWN ELM STREET BY FRANCESCA SAGALA



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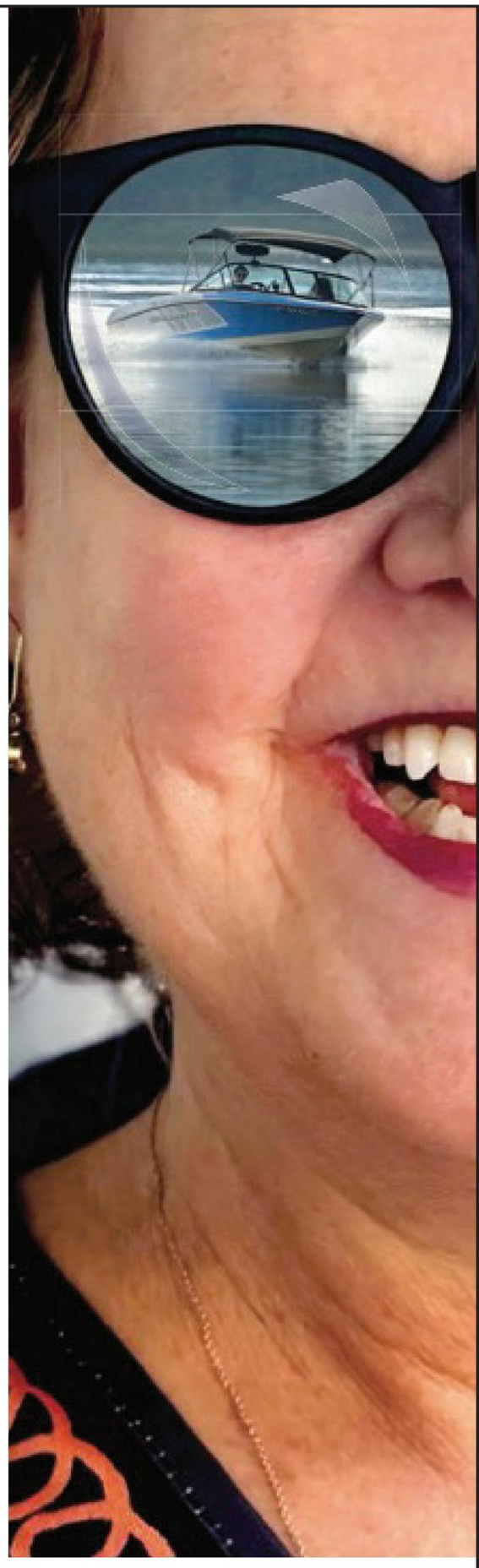

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#4 TEAM IN THE NATION[1] | **#1** TEAM IN ILLINOIS & MIDWEST[2] | **#1** TEAM IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA[3] | **#1** TEAM IN PARK CITY[4]

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New Buffalo Times

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

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Periodical Postage paid in New Buffalo, MI. Postmaster, please send address changes to:
NEW BUFFALO TIMES
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PUBLICATION NUMBER 377960
CIRCULATION 5,000+ WEEKLY

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Rasute Stropus (center) stands with parks director Joe Martin and members of the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors on the Mobi Mats at Berrien Street Beach

SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
1001
Date 06/06/2024
Pay to the Order of Chikaming Township $5,000 00/100
Five Thousand and 0/100 Dollars
For Mobi Mats
Authorized Signature
The Southwest Michigan Realtors Association is proud to provide funding for this walkway as part of a grant to help improve communities.
SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Mobi Mats leading down to Berrien Street Beach

Mobi Mats improve access at Berrien Street Beach

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Despite having been in the area for 60 years, Rasute Stropus hasn't been to the beach for "years and years."

Due to having a walker, Stropus, who said four generations of her family have been in the area, said she hasn't been able to enjoy Berrien Street Beach in Union Pier because traversing the hill there would be difficult.

"I can do the stairs but not through the sand - I would fall," she said.

That changed Friday, June 7, when Stropus went down the hill on the newly installed Mobi Mats that lead down to the beach.

Accompanying her were Chikaming Township Parks Director Joe Martin and members of the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors (SWMAR).

The township was awarded a $5,000 Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper (LQC) Grant that was funded by SWMAR that made the installation of the synthetic walkway possible.

Of the township's seven road end beaches, Berrien Street is the only one with a sandy walkway that leads to and from the beach.

Martin said the Mobi Mats will help those with disabilities or who may have trouble getting down to the beach.

Local realtor George Lucas, who represents District One on the SWMAR Board, sponsored the grant.

He said that it was Martin's idea to pursue a grant.

"He sent me over the proposal and I said 'This is a great idea' and I signed off on it," he said, adding that the sand can prove to be difficult for anyone to walk on.

Lucas said that this is the second grant that he's procured for the area, with the first one going toward one of the preserves for Chikaming Open Lands (COL).

"This is a great demonstration of how realtors do make a difference and how we do take leadership in our communities...I'm very happy to see that we can use private money to support a public project," he said.

As soon as you notice, keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday October thru March at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Commissioner opts not to seek third term

BY STAN MADDUX

The clock is ticking on a La Porte County Commissioner who has chosen not to seek a third term.

Rich Mrozinski, who was removed from the May 7 Republican primary ballot for failing to properly fill out his candidacy papers, could run in the November general election as an Independent.

The Rolling Prairie man, who's in his 70's, said he will not exercise that option.

Instead, one of the things he wants to do after his term expires December 31 is spend more time at his second home in Florida.

"I'd like to spend whatever time I have left enjoying life and playing golf and walking the beach on the ocean," he said.

Mrozinski said he also wants to "spend more time with my wife and my grandkids. My little great-grandson. He just graduated from elementary school and he's going on to junior high. These are important things I want to be part of."

Mrozinski, a veteran of the Vietnam War, is among the central figures in an ongoing political firestorm now in its fourth year.

He was kicked out of the La Porte County Republican Party as an official member for reasons that include criticizing fellow party members, voting to rehire a now former democratic county government attorney and placing a rubber snake after hours outside the office of one of his main political opponents, La Porte County Auditor Tim Stabosz.

Stabosz is also a republican in the divided party.

Mrozinski said construction of an EMS base in Rolling Prairie, extension of sewer service to Rolling Prairie and bringing two Class 1 railroads to serve Kingsbury Industrial Park were among the biggest accomplishments he helped to achieve.

Previously, he spent two terms on the La Porte County Council and retired after close to 40 years as a power line technician for Northern Indiana Public Service Company.

Woman charged with drugs that claimed a life

BY STAN MADDUX

A woman is being prosecuted for the drugs that claimed a life in La Porte last year.

Kayla Shaffer, 29, is charged in La Porte Circuit Court with Level 1 felony dealing drugs resulting in death.

According to authorities, Cannon Breneman, 22, was found dead by family members at a home in the 600 block of Tecumseh Street.

The case was turned over to the La Porte County Drug Task Force, which learned during a several month investigation that a drug trafficking organization was operating within the city limits and that Shaffer played a role in the drugs winding up in the victim's possession, authorities said.

The drugs were identified as methamphetamine and/or fentanyl.

Shaffer, whose current listed address is from the Kingsford Heights area, could face anywhere from a 20 to 40-year sentence.

She was being held in the La Porte County Jail on $100,000 bond.

La Porte Police Chief Dick Buell praised the efforts of drug task force members.

"The fortitude demonstrated by detectives in this case is a testament to their dedication in making La Porte a safer community," he said.

La Porte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan said the filing of a criminal charge in this case was made possible by a state law that went into effect in 2018 to try and curb a rise in overdose deaths.

"If I give you drugs and you die from those drugs and if I meet all of the statutory requirements then I'm responsible for your death," he said.

Happiness is the secret to all beauty. There is no beauty without happiness. — *Christian Dior*

QIGONG BEING OFFERED AT LAKESIDE PARK

The Lakeside Association is pleased to offer free QiGong sessions for the community.

QiGong (pronounced Chi Gong) is an ancient Chinese medicine practice that strengthens one's internal "chi" or life-force. The practice focuses on movement, breathing and meditation to optimize mind, body and spirit, with the goal of improving and maintaining health and well-being.

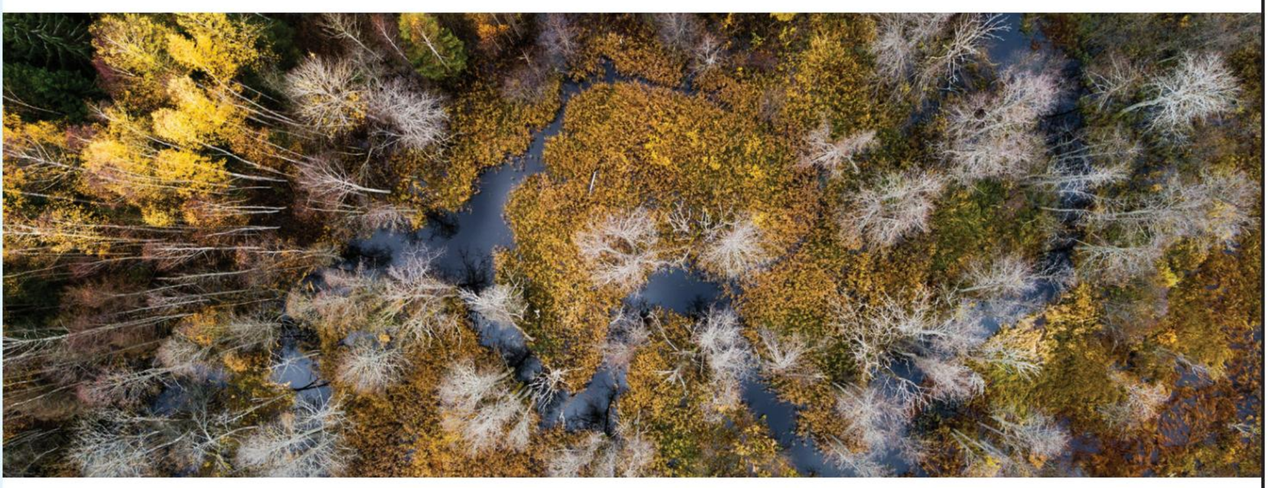
It is a simple practice that can be done by anyone and requires no special equipment or training.

Sessions will take place at 9 a.m. Sunday, June 16 and July 14. Elizabeth Nuti of Harbor Country's Skybird Yoga will guide everyone through these 30-minute sessions.

Sessions will take place at Lakeside Gazebo Park. Comfortable clothing is recommended.

— STAFF REPORTS

The Boreal Forest



OPINIONS

GLOBAL OPINIONS
7 ways Evil people Manipulate
Part 3 of 5 Series

OPINION BY DINO N. FATOUROS

1. When confronted, evil people are adept at feigning ignorance or dismissing accusations with a dismissive "that's ridiculous." They deny their wrongdoing and use deception to maintain a trustworthy facade, often employing a natural smile and material possessions to further their agenda.

2. Evil people are skilled at controlling and manipulating situations to advance their own interests. Their tools include ongoing deceit, disinformation, misinformation, half-truths, and underhanded tactics for gathering information.

3. When threatened, evil people resort to intimidation tactics, leverage their positions and relationships in power, and manipulate situations to their advantage.

4. The evil individual rarely reveals their true self. Instead, they play the victim, manipulating empathy to shift focus away from their disgraceful behavior.

5. They are masters of deception. They skillfully stir up drama by exploiting social ties talkativeness and subtly gather information. With this information, they create half-truths and selectively broadcast them to establish disinformation. This is done covertly, often through long established sources, to divert attention from their wickedness and inflict pain strategically on their enemy and victim.

6. They are skilled at finding and creating division. They exploit pre-existing differences, such as misunderstandings or political interests, to fracture relationships within their community for their gain.

7. Financial exploitation and leveraging their influence are powerful tools in these manipulators' arsenal.

8. Warning: Exposing evil people might have significant consequences. Be prepared for illicit retaliation, as they will make life difficult for you long term if you reveal their true character.

Public Notice:
Your right to know!

PUBLIC NOTICES are an effective way for agencies of government to make official announcements.

State law requires these notices be printed in newspapers.

Nearly two-thirds of active Michigan voters* would be concerned if government placed these notices on websites because important information could be concealed from the public.

* EPIC-MRA 2011

MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

This newspaper supports your right to know.

Mrs. Ropers invade Michigan City during First Friday

BY JOE DURK

PHOTOS COURTESY OF INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF MRS. ROPERS-NWI CHAPTER & PHENOMENAL PHOTO BOOTH CO.

There was no need to knock on most doors during the Michigan City Uptown Arts District First Friday, when a dressed-up group of Mrs. Ropers from the late 1970s hit television sitcom, "Three's Company," "romped" down Franklin Street Friday, June 6.

The Northwest Indiana Chapter of the International Order of Mrs. Ropers posted on Facebook to show up in costume for stopping and shopping at stores and restaurants in the Uptown Arts District.

"We saw the Roper explosion all over social media, and wanted to be a part of it so bad. We couldn't find anything local, so we had our first 'romp' in December, and it's grown from there. We now coin ourselves as a social club and want to bring our fun to many different communities, and we hope to offer a variety of events. Seeing everyone smile and laugh with us is why we do this. We would also like to do more volunteer work and community engagement activities, too," said Patty Jo Stewart, a chapter founding member.

The evening ended at Fiddlehead restaurant, which is located at 422 Franklin Street, for its weekly "Tiki-oke" karaoke. The night was television-themed, with a Limbo contest.

"We have Tiki-oke (karaoke with a Tiki theme, hosted by Tiki-Louie) every first Friday of the month. Each week is themed for a certain genre of music. Tiki-Louie saw how popular the Mrs. Roper events were and thought it might be a fun addition to our "TV theme songs" Tiki-oke. We have a large LGBTQI+ following, and Tiki-oke is a popular event each month for our community. The turn out this month was amazing, and we were happy to see everyone embracing the theme and having fun. We hope to make this a yearly event coinciding with the "TV theme song theme" we have each year. Each week is a different theme ranging from "Divas" to "Country" and even "Yacht Rock." said Fiddlehead owner Aaron O'Reilly.

The Mrs. Ropers, some of whom had a "Stanley" with them, and bubbles or a prop flamingo, had full access to the Phenomenal Photo Booth Co. Photobooth for portraits and gifs.

Honored by Fiddlehead for the three best Mrs. Roper in the costume competition were Craig, Sue and Monique.

Strothers celebrating 25 years of excellence in corrective chiropractic care in New Buffalo

Dr. Strother and his wife, Rose, as well as their dedicated team at the Corrective Chiropractic Clinic in New Buffalo, are proud to announce the celebration of their 25th anniversary serving the community with exceptional chiropractic care. This milestone marks a quarter-century of commitment to enhancing the health and well-being of their patients.

Since opening its doors June 1, 1999, Corrective Chiropractic Clinic has been a trusted source of holistic chiropractic services in the New Buffalo area. Dr. Strother's passion for helping others achieve optimal health and wellness has been the driving force behind the clinic's success over the past 25 years.

"I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve the wonderful community of New Buffalo and the surrounding area for the past 25 years," said Dr. Strother. "It has been a privilege to help our patients improve their health, alleviate pain, and enhance their quality of life through chiropractic care. I look forward to continuing to support our community for many years to come."

With his Fellowship in Chiropractic Pediatrics and a certification in pregnancy care, it's no surprise that Dr. Strother serves the entire family, from infancy to grandparents, for adjustments and that all come for his care. Dr. Strother says he loves helping people and is met daily with challenging cases that don't seem to get answers anywhere else. He has patients coming from up to an hour away to see him for specialized care.

"We offer other services like massage, spinal decompression tables, neuropathy therapy and isolated cryotherapy that all help with the extra tough cases," Dr. Strother said.

In addition to celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Corrective Chiropractic Clinic, Dr. Strother and Rose are also marking the first anniversary of their innovative recovery studio, A Hot Place to Chill, located at 400 S. Whitaker Street. This state-of-the-art facility offers a unique combination of recovery services to help clients relax, rejuvenate and restore their bodies.

Rose Strother, who manages both businesses alongside her husband, expressed her excitement about the growth and success of "A Hot Place to Chill" over the past year.

"It has been incredibly rewarding to see our clients experience the benefits of our recovery services and leave feeling refreshed and revitalized. Many people see this as a chance to create a change in their life! We are proud to offer a tranquil space where individuals can prioritize their well-being and self-care," she said.

A Hot Place to Chill offers passive natural health services like red light therapy, compression, infrared saunas, whole body cryotherapy, massage chairs and more.

As Corrective Chiropractic Clinic and A Hot Place to Chill continue to thrive and expand their services, Dr. Strother and Rose look forward to serving the New Buffalo community for many more years to come.

For more information about their businesses, visit www.newbuffalochiropractor.com and www.ahotplacetochill.com or follow them on social media for updates and special announcements. — STAFF REPORTS

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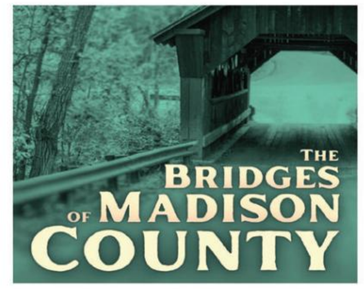
dunesARTS Summer Theatre

288 Shady Oak Drive Michigan City, Indiana

2024 Season

May 31 - June 16, Fri/Sat 7pm, Sun 2pm, CST
Blithe Spirit
By Noel Coward
"One of Coward's indisputable comic masterpieces" *The Daily Telegraph*

June 28 - July 14, Fri/Sat 7pm, Sun 2pm, CST
Talley's Folly
By Lanford Wilson
"A funny, sweet, touching and marvelously written love poem for an apple and an orange" *New York Post*



July 26 - August 11, Fri/Sat 7pm, Sun 2pm, CST
Bridges of Madison County
Book by Marsha Norman, music and lyrics by Jason Robert Brown
"Romance comes sweeping down the plains in a passionate new musical" *TimeOut New York*

August 15 - 17, Thurs/Fri/Sat 7pm, CST
Romantic Journeys
Music Director Andrew Flasch
Stage Director Steve Scott

September 19 - 22, Thurs/Fri/Sat 7pm, Sun 2pm, CST
2nd Annual New Plays Festival

Scan this QR code to purchase tickets and to learn more about the shows.

Purchase Tickets

More info at www.dunesARTS.org

SCHOLASTICS

New Buffalo school board approves Melissa Lijewski as elementary principal

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education approved the hiring of Melissa Lijewski as principal of New Buffalo Elementary School effective July 1 at their Monday, June 10, meeting.

Throughout her 17 years of working at the elementary school, Lijewski has taught first, second and fourth grades. For the past seven years, she's served as the Title 1 coordinator.

"I appreciate the support - I'm super excited, so thank you," LIjewski said.

In May, board members accepted the resignation of Cassie King, who was hired in April as elementary principal after serving as interim principal since January.

Also approved for employment were Keri Haskins, who previously worked at Bridgman Public Schools, as elementary guidance counselor and Thomas Krieger as high school math teacher.

Board members adopted the 2024-2025 fiscal budget.

Regarding the General Fund's revenues, business manager Pano Arvanitis said that local revenues are projected to be $18.2 million, state revenues are $2.4 million, federal revenues are $154,479 and local grants and donations are estimated to be at $58,000, which brings total revenues to about $20.8 million.

Regarding the General Fund's revenues, business manager Pano Arvanitis said that local revenues are projected to be $18.2 million, state revenues are $2.4 million, federal revenues are $154,479 and local grants and donations are estimated to be at $58,000, which brings total revenues to about $20.8 million.

It's estimated that about 68% of expenditures will be payroll and benefits. Total appropriated funds for next year are projected to be $21.7 million.

Arvanitis said that property values continue to go up.

In 2020, district voters renewed a $19.5741 mill property tax, which will expire Dec. 31, 2025. For 2024, 18 mills will be levied on all non-principal residence, non-qualified agricultural property, non-qualified forest property, non-supportive housing property, non-PSA-occupied property and non-industrial property in the district to fund the majority of general operations. Estimated revenue generated from the levy is $16.6 million, or 80% of the district's revenues.

Superintendent Adam Bowen said that last year, the district was at 18.7 mills. Due to the Headlee rollback, this year, the district took a .5 hit and is currently at 18.2 mills. The 19.5 mills is supposed to last until December 2025; however, if it takes another .5 hit with the rollback, the total 18 mill amount that's being recommended won't be able to be levied. As a result, Bowen said he's recommending that the district go for a mileage renewal this November.

Board members heard updates on the district's operations and Bison Afterschool Enrichment (BASE) program.

Operations director Keith Carlson said that this year, they employed eight full-time custodians and a full time groundskeeper, as well as one maintenance person for the district.

Daily cleaning involves 215,000 square feet of floor space, including all restrooms, locker rooms, and other facilities

Carlson said the elementary and middle and high schools are "structurally excellent," as well as the athletic fields, the track, tennis court, field house and storage building.

Upcoming projects for the 2024-2025 year include the ongoing elementary addition, the elementary unit rooftop replacement project, replacing the 1970s-era doors in the area of the two kindergarten rooms all the way through the media center and the restrooms, rug replacements in the elementary and middle/high schools, including the PAC, entrance and parking lot improvements for the middle/high school, sanding down, restriping, and installing new brackets and a new finish in the gold gym and restriping the multiplex track.

BASE Director Madeline Selby said that BASE currently has five staff members. At one point this year, there were nine high school volunteers or students who had been hired by BASE after completing community service hours. Overall, there were 15 volunteers.

Out of the 225 students enrolled at the elementary school (excluding pre-K), 208 are registered for BASE and at any given time, the program can have up to that amount of students attending it daily.

This year, students went on a field trip to Zao Island in Valparaiso. Selby said that a future goal involves BASE hosting at least one event per trimester, like a dance or the color run.

A survey was sent out to BASE parents, with Selby saying that she'd like to send one out to elementary students on what they'd like to have each year as well.

This year, 15 new enrichments were added to the program. The BASE logo was also updated for the first time.

The resolutions that comply with the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contributions Act (152) for the medical benefit plan coverage beginning July 1, which includes District employees paying 20% and New Buffalo Area Schools paying 80% of the premium, in lieu of capping the premium were approved.

The student-parent middle school handbook was approved.

Board members approved Petro Choice supplying fuel products and Scholl Dairy supplying milk products for the next school year.

A check for $3,000 was presented by students, teachers and staff members to Berrien County Cancer Service for money that was raised during the district wide "Make Cancer Extinct" 5K held in May.

2024 Grants now available from The Heart of Cook

Grant applications are now available from The Heart of Cook Foundation, with a deadline of July 1.

The Heart of Cook is a grant program funded by Indiana Michigan Power's (I&M) Cook Nuclear Plant and administered by Berrien Community Foundation to assist nonprofit programs in Southwest Michigan and Northwest Indiana (La Porte, St. Joseph and Elkhart counties).

Environmental protection and preservation, human services and educational projects are the focus areas of this grant program. The grant review committee, comprised of Cook Nuclear Plant employees, gives special consideration to projects that involve I&M employees. Organizations must have 501(c)(3) tax exempt or equivalent status to qualify for funding.

"The Heart of Cook Grant Program has always been important in helping sustain many of our community's nonprofits," said Bill Downey, chair of the employee advisory committee for The Heart of Cook. "Our committee takes these applications very seriously in an effort to do the most good with the dollars we provide, and we're excited to review another crop of worthy projects this year."

Shane Lies, AEP's senior vice president and chief nuclear officer, agreed.

"Generating safe, reliable carbon-free electricity is certainly the most recognizable way we're able to impact the quality of life here," he said. "However, since its formation, our Heart of Cook program has delivered more than $1 million to numerous organizations who are vital to meeting the growing needs of Southwest Michigan. To me, this kind of engaging effort led by our employees is every bit as powerful in its impact."

Grant applications and guidelines are available online at Berrien Community Foundation's website, www.berriencommunity.org/HOC. All grant applications must be submitted electronically through the Berrien Community Foundation's website. The grant application due date is July 1, 2024, with winners being notified in late August and a reception to be held in September. Agencies that have received funding for three consecutive years will not be eligible to apply during this grant cycle. If you have questions about applying, contact BCF Program Director Susan Matheny at susanmatheny@berriencommunity.org.

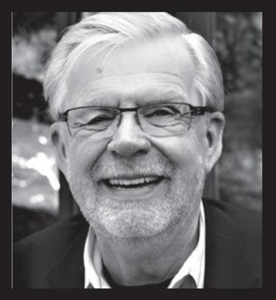
Cook Nuclear Plant is owned and operated by Indiana Michigan Power, an AEP company, headquartered in Fort Wayne, Indiana. At full capacity, the 1,084-net MW Unit 1, and 1,194-net MW Unit 2 combined produce enough emission-free electricity for more than one-and-one-half million average homes. Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) and its approximately 2,000 employees serve more than 600,000 customers. More than 85% of its energy delivered in 2023 was emission-free. I&M has at its availability various sources of generation including 2,278 MW of nuclear generation in Michigan, 450 MW of purchased wind generation from Indiana, more than 22 MW of hydro generation in both states and approximately 35 MW of large-scale solar generation in both states. The company's generation portfolio also includes 1,497 MW of coal-fueled generation. For more information, visit www.indianamichiganpower.com or www.cookinfo.com.

The goal of the Berrien Community Foundation is to connect needs with resources in our community. Working with individuals, corporations and other foundations, BCF creates endowments and other funds that support the ever-changing needs of Berrien County now and into the future. BCF's Community Endowment, field of interest funds, and donor advised funds have provided funding to support a wide variety of services and agencies for 70 years.

For more information on Berrien Community Foundation and how you can create your own legacy of giving, visit website at www.berriencommunity.org or call 269-983-3304. — STAFF REPORTS

SPORTS

From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

A few weeks ago, my gal and I decided to go on a road trip to Memphis and Nashville.

Both of us are music lovers and neither of us had ever been to either of these great Tennessee music meccas. We arrived in Memphis first, and after getting settled, we took off for Beale Street.

While in college, a friend that lived on the same floor of the dorm as I did introduced me to jazz and blues. Until then, I only listened to folk, Motown, and Rock music. I remember one of the first records of my friends that I liked had the lyric "and the blind man on the corner sang the Beale Street Blues."

Much later, Marc Cohen wrote Walking in Memphis, a song that included the lyric" Walking with my feet 10 feet off of Beale."

Many other songs I like mention Memphis, so I really wanted to visit. I certainly wasn't disappointed.

The people were great, the food was delicious, and the music was everything we thought it would be, and more. We spent a lot of time at B.B. Kings on Beale street where a new band would take the stage every couple of hours.

We ate and drank to our hearts content and when we finally decided to leave there were huge crowds in the street listening to street performers. They were great but eventually we had to get some rest.

The next day we decided to skip Graceland and visit Sun Studios instead. Elvis, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins, the million dollar quartet.

We took a bus tour and saw Overland Park, the stage where Elvis made his professional debut, and Johnny Cash followed him and introduced himself by saying "Hello, I'm Johnny Cash" in his new black suit.

We also saw the place where Martin Luther King was tragically shot down and on the other side of humanity, Saint Jude's. For all you music lovers and history buffs out there, I highly recommend Memphis.

The next day we were off to Nashville. As soon as we arrived we went directly to Broadway to visit some of their famous music venues. We quickly ended up on the rooftop of Jason Aldean's. The music was good, the food not bad, but boy, was it crowded.

Again, everyone was really nice. I'm sure that if I was still a 20-something, I would have loved it.

Sadly, I'm past that.

Our final night was spent in historic Ryman Auditorium, a converted church that was the original home of the Grand Ole Opry to see and listen to Rock and Roll hall of fame member Todd Rundgren.

He and his band put on a great show and it was a fitting end to our musical journey. I loved our music themed road-trip so much that I almost forgot about sports for awhile.

I'm sure sports will make a comeback next week.

Plato said, "Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

It's not a game. You can't play boxing.
— Gervonta Davis

Cash the filling at fund raising Donut Eating Contest

BY STAN MADDUX

Over $3,400 was raised for the Salvation Army of Michigan City from the ninth annual Donut Eating Contest.

Proceeds help support free programs and services including a food pantry, diaper bank, utility assistance, summer camp, clothing room, group grief support and case management.

New Prairie High School Athletic Director Ben Bachmann was this year's champion by eating 11 donuts in 10 minutes during the June 7 competition at Blue Chip Casino.

About 200 people watched as 13 competitors vied for the trophy.

Indiana State Police Trooper Ken Payonk set the record last year, eating 16 donuts in 10 minutes, but he managed to consume just five donuts this year.

The contest is held on National Donut Day, which has roots with The Salvation Army.

The holiday commemorates a time when "Donut Lassies" from The Salvation Army traveled to the front lines of World War I, serving spiritual care, coffee and donuts to American troops in France.

"Thank you to everyone who supported this event, and those who support our programs throughout the year," said Major Dale Simmons, who operates the Michigan City Salvation Army with his wife, Becky.

Sponsors of the ninth annual Donut Eating Contest included GAF, Blue Chip Casino, the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce and Al's Supermarkets.

For more information about The Salvation Army of Michigan City, visit www.samichigancity.org or call 219- 874-6885.

Tickets on sale for MHS' 'Cocktails at Whispering Pines'

Tickets on sale for MHS' 'Cocktails at Whispering Pines'Ticket sales are now open for Michiana Humane Society's signature fundraiser, Cocktails at Whispering Pines, at a spectacular Harbor Country property, Saturday, July 27.

The event will offer elevated cocktails, delicious hors d'oeuvres, a spirited live auction, live music, a silent auction and upbeat celebrating with fellow animal lovers.

This signature summer fundraiser is the largest source of income for Michiana Humane Society, and a singular event that attracts hundreds of attendees and generates tremendous word-of-mouth for MHS and its sponsors. While last year marked the final event at Grand Cottage, 2024 will bring a fresh, new location and opportunities to fund second chances for pets.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the inaugural 2024 Cocktails in the Whispering Pines event will go directly to funding the mission of MHS.

The rough event schedule is as follows (listed in Eastern Time): 5:30-6:30 p.m. cocktails, raffle entry and silent auction bidding; 6:30-7:15 p.m. live auction; 7:30-8:30 p.m. live music from Soul & Motown Allstars band; 8:30 p.m. raffle drawing and silent auction close and 8:45-10:15 p.m. live music and dancing continues.

Whispering Pines auction and raffle items are: week stay for 10 in a stunning private home in Telluride, Colorado; Chicago Cubs Package of tickets, parking and dinner for four; weekend stay for 10 and Lobster Roll picnic in a lovely private home overlooking Lake Michigan in Lakeside, Michigan; a private dinner and wine pairings for 10 at Terrace Room; week stay for eight at a private home in centrally located Silverthorne, Colorado, with a seasonal outdoor experience included; a dinner party for 24 at the historic equestrian estate of SunnyMare in Galien, Michigan, featuring local "outsider" chefs and mixologist; a week stay for 12 in a private home in picturesque Charlevoix, Michigan, and an afternoon cruise on a Lake Michigan Yacht with captain and two jets skis.

Bid on items like a Pedego electric beach cruiser and experiences like a private sand-sculpting class.

Michigan Friends of the Michiana Humane Society will be raffling off a pair of Spitfire Kayaks. Raffle tickets are $50 each.

For more information and to purchase tickets and sponsorships, visit www.michiganpets.org/events. —

STAFF REPORTS

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Tradition abounds during 'World's Largest Flag Day Parade

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Similar to years past, the 72nd annual Flag Day Parade was rife with tradition.

Locals and visitors converged on Elm Street in downtown Three Oaks Sunday, June 9, to view what has long been billed as the "World's Largest Flag Day Parade." Featuring over 100 units, this year's parade kicked off with the traditional six Harley Davidson Road King Police Motorcycles from the Berrien County Sheriff's Office Motorcycle Unit. Other units that made their way down Elm Street were the Three Oaks American Legion Post 204 Color Guard; the parade's grand marshal, Louis "Louie" Pryzbylinski, a 1962 Galien graduate and Army veteran who was a dedicated parade volunteer for over 25 years; the Miss/Mr. Three Oaks/River Valley Royal Court and other local royalty; the Mid-American Cowgirls Rodeo Team and the usual endless stream of tractors and antique cars.

The parade was emceed by none other than Richard Smith, president of the Village of Three Oaks.

The Mid American Cowgirls Rodeo Drill Team makes an appearance

Michiana Clowns entertain

Members of the Three Oaks American Legion Post 204 march in the parade

Journeyman Distillery was represented in the parade

Athletic Sensations show off baton twirling

The famous stilt walker marches in the parade

The Michigan City Soul Steppers Drill Team puts on a show

The River Valley Marching Mustangs march down Elm Street

The Berrien County Shriner Club and mini bike patrol puts on a show

Pat Rickerman drives his 1997 Urial Sportsman two wheel drive motorcycle

A parade of tractors drives down Elm Street

The La Porte County EZ riders drill team rides down Elm Street

Candidate for state representative, George Lucas,waves to the crowd

An endless line of tractors makes its way down Elm Street

A 1979 M35a2 military truck makes its way down Elm Street

Flag Day Prince and Princess Finely Boersma and Hazel Bross ride in the parade

The Michiana Corvette Club was represented in the parade

The River Valley Softball Association shows off patriotic pride

A tractor drives the River Valley Youth Sports truck down Elm Street

The New Buffalo 2024 Royal Court makes an appearance

Grand Marshall Louis Pryzbylinski rides in the parade

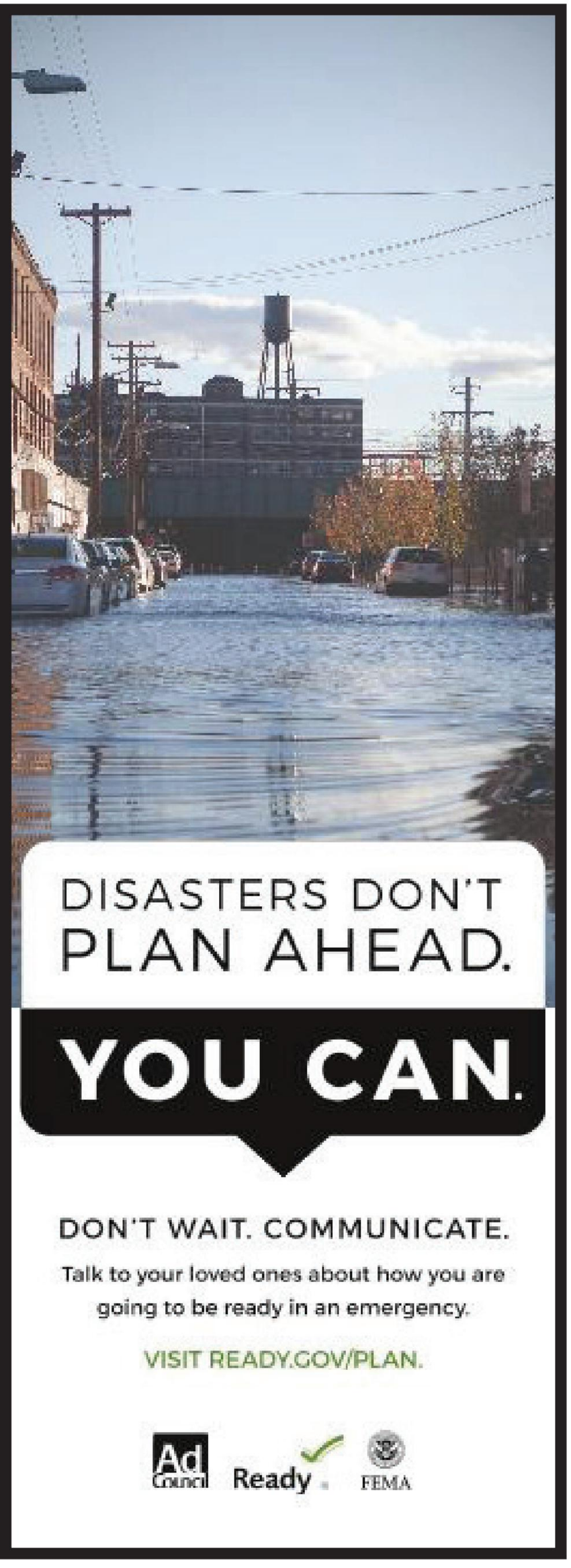
Members of the village council were spotted in the parade

The Acorn Center for the Performing Arts adds a musical note to the parade

Members of the Snowmbusters Snowmobile Club

Sunset Coast Country Dancers show off some steps

The Three Oaks and River Valley Royal Court



A Day in the Life

A CHALLENGING DINNER

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER

While I have had some disastrous situations take place at my various dinner parties over the years, last week's dinner was a good runner-up for having the most challenging ones.

Through no fault of my own, I was somewhat late calling the invitations (tsk tsk). I called everyone exactly on my own time, with my own late notice. Many had already made plans for what was predicted to be a summery Saturday night. Nevertheless, 12 guests graciously said they'd attend.

I threw together the massive casserole and threw it in the oven. To ensure that I had enough for the main course, I also threw in a large roast.

Christine Vanekiasen surprised me with a bushel of flowers for the party. So I made six bouquets and placed them around my place. Christine is such a doll to bring me all of those flowers!

I then made a huge salad, prepared shrimp cocktail and deviled eggs and sweet corn and got the dinner rolls out of the freezer. Then, I checked out the whipped cream and strawberries.

It was an organizational nightmare. I don't know where it went wrong, but it did.

"The headliner" guests were Jeff and Cindy Dryden. The Drydens brought the 4 year old boy, whom they were babysitting, with them, as they felt unable to attend my dinner otherwise. Di'Mav was a darling! Like his adult counterparts, he had his own place card, bright blue china and colorful flatware.

Jeff and Cindy, a fabulous couple who just retired after 33 years as the pastor and music director of Converge Church in New Buffalo and Sawyer Highlands Church, had just arrived home a few days earlier from Israel - a gift from the church on their retirement. Jeff gave a brief thank you and a prayer for the folks attending the event.

I decorated the front porch, with a sign welcoming them home, a bouquet of flowers and a candelabra. They took the sign home with them to have for "show and tell" with their family of six kids, who now have given birth to 16 grandchildren! Baby sitting is now a part of their regular rituals, and they love every moment of it!

Keep in mind: My dining table only seats eight and I was up to 12 guests and climbing. I seated seven at the table and then elected to use the patio table for another four, and the rest on TV trays and whatever.

I assigned four to the patio table, where I put up the umbrella. I set the table exactly like the interior table, with fresh flowers, music, china, stemware and silver. I was led to believe it would work out well if I designated four close friends to sit together there; however, one of them objected to being out there, so they stayed inside and ate off their lap.

We started with my standard appetizers of jumbo shrimp cocktail, crackers and deviled eggs. Wine and drinks were optional from my "psychedelic" bar, which had 1,000 lights, including a neon flag. Out came my huge tossed salad, with 15 ingredients that was served from my beautiful crystal Boda Nova bowl. It was accompanied by another delicious salad, which was prepared by Debbie Singer! Next was the entree, which was served in a huge Calphalon casserole, with a dozen chicken thighs smothered in sauces and onions, potatoes and a host of other vegetables all arranged in a concentric design. For good measure, I roasted an additional eight pound pork roast. Corn on the cob was also served, having been steamed to perfection by Debbie and Cindy and served on a beautiful porcelain white platter. The dinner rolls resided quietly in their package and remained untouched by human hands. (No big deal, I rationalized.)

One of my bigger failures was not serving a large pan of oven roasted asparagus from Joe Berger, who snapped three bundles of those suckers. He was raised in India and is an Indian gourmet cook; however, he was intrigued with the"'snapping off the tough ends" of the asparagus. After smattering them with vegetable oil on a baking sheet, we put them in the oven to roast. Unfortunately, l forgot all about them and they never saw the light of day!

Dessert was fresh strawberries that were smothered in whipped cream. Cindy prepared the strawberries beautifully.

Everything was then served in a buffet style.

Thank you to the gang for coming and helping me through this dinner. Particularly, a huge thanks to Gary Pieczora, who was there at every turn for this crippled old man. It was a rewarding, fun evening only because of all of my friends' help, tolerance and sense of humor.

One might say it "takes a village" to eat at Ol' Lar's

None of this banter holds a candle to the brave souls, who defended this country and gave us the privilege of holding these affairs so freely.

Amen.

THE EDGAR WILLBURY EXPERIENCE 70'S AND 80'S ROCK AND ROLL AT GHOST ISLE IN NEW BUFFALO

If you like 70's and 80's rock and roll, Ghost Isle New Buffalo this Friday at 6:00 pm has what you're looking for! The Edgar Willbury Experience, a band for nailing such artists as Tom Petty, Bob Seger, The Cars, Rolling Stones and Neil Young and more will be in town on their Southwest Michigan tour.

The Willbury Experience that is made up of Three Oaks local, Fred Lange on vocals and harmonica, Scott Dresden on guitar, Frank Rotondo on Bass and Tony Borden on drums will have a special guest joining them who has been with the band before. Performs in Minneapolis, MN and has been a friend of the band and a Three Oaks native, keyboardist Mark Francis is in town for this show.

The Willbury Experience begins playing at 6:00 pm this Friday, June 14th. There is a $5.00 cover charge. — STAFF REPORTS

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CHARGES IN THEFT OF 1955 CHEVY TRUCK

An antique vehicle was stolen in La Porte County, driven in a snow storm and abandoned in South Bend.

Charges have now been filed in the case.

Wendy Hutson, 50, is accused of driving a 1955 Chevy pick-up from her ex-boyfriend's garage in Kingsbury following a break-up in their relationship.

Police said there was snow and sleet falling while she was out driving it after the theft in late January.

The red pick-up valued at $50,000 is now back in the garage of owner David Meals.

Meals said there were a few things wrong with the truck like an oil leak and the clutch slipping when it was returned to him.

"The truck was driven in the salt so there's rust developing on the truck now," he said.

Meals said the truck was in pretty good shape when he bought two years ago but it needed some restoration, which he performed himself.

He said he bought and restored the red truck to remember to his son, who died at the age of 21 in a head-on motor vehicle collision caused by the other driver in Pennsylvania.

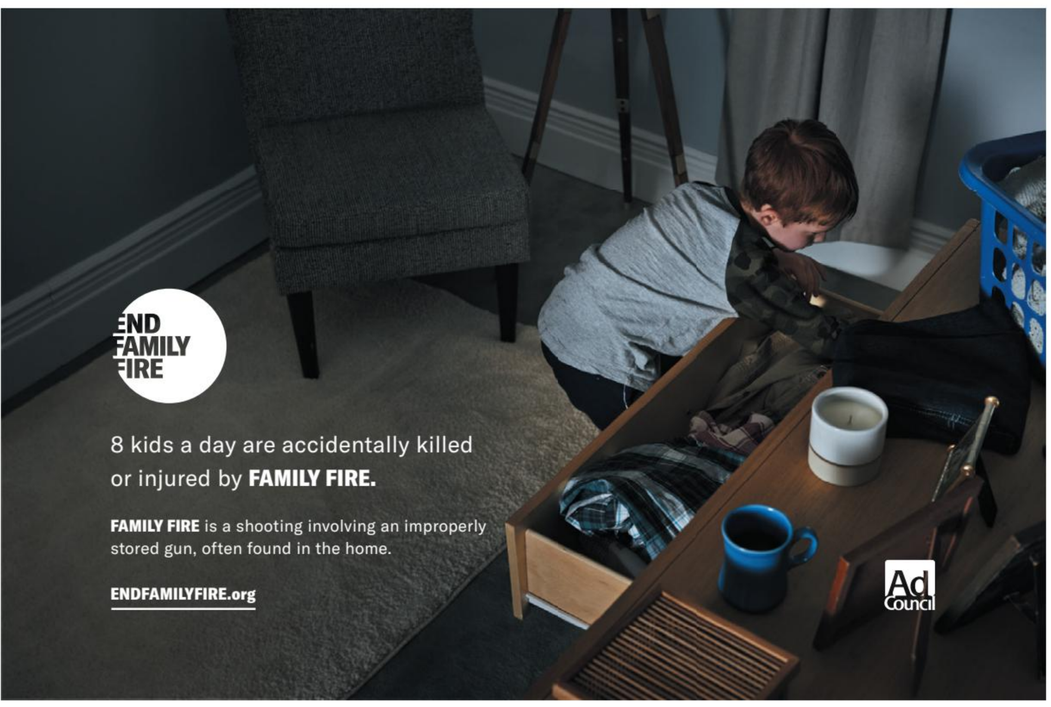
"That 55, 56 and 57 Chevy pick-ups was his favorite out of all vehicles. I built the truck mainly as a memorial to him," he said.

According to police, it's believed Hutson used a set of keys to the truck to steal it.

The theft was discovered when she was driving the truck during the winter storm and a friend of the owner happened to see it and became suspicious, knowing Meals would never drive it in such conditions, court documents revealed.

The truck was found parked along a street in South Bend about a week after the theft, police said.

Hutson could face anywhere from a one to six year sentence on a Level 5 felony theft charge filed in La Porte Circuit Court. — STAN MADDUX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OBITUARIES

Mark Bryan Henshaw
1959-2024

Mark Bryan Henshaw, 64, of Union Pier, died Saturday, April 20, 2024, after a lengthy illness.

His life began June 12, 1959, in Houston, Texas, the eldest of two sons born to Terrence and Sandra Henshaw. He married Susan Anoskey, June 21, 1989, in New Buffalo, Michigan.

Mark's family moved from Texas to Battle Creek, Michigan in 1968. He attended and graduated from Lakeview High School, in 1977, where he participated in many musicals and plays. He worked for Wheatbrook Home Center in Rolling Prairie, Indiana for twenty-five years. This is where he learned the skills of woodworking and building. It was these skills he and Susan utilitzed, to create a beautiful home together. Mark was a self-employed handyman for local residences. He cherished his work and his customers. Friends and Family considered him the grill master and at dinner parties and camping trips he would always make sure everyone was well fed. He loved hosting poker parties, playing pool, and playing chess with his lifelong friends and brother, Chris. Mark also raised bees, home brewed beer, and enjoyed fishing.

Mark will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his wife of thirty-five years, Susan Henshaw of Union Pier; one brother, Christopher Henshaw of Stagecoach, Texas; and one nephew, Joshua Henshaw of Chicago, Illinois.

Family and friends will gather at the Henshaw Residence, Saturday, June 15, 2024, from 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Please contact Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks to RSVP.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

Carol Frances Renbarger
1943-2024

Carol Frances Renbarger, 81, of Three Oaks, went home to heaven Friday, June 6, 2024, in the presence of her family.

Her life began March 1, 1943, in Chicago, Illinois, the second youngest of five children born to Frank and Halo Myers. She married the love of her life, Larry Renbarger, June 22, 1963, in Three Oaks, Michigan.

Carol was a vibrant, loving wife and mother who enjoyed life and loved Jesus. She moved to Three Oaks at the age of ten. She worked as a teller with Fifth-Third Bank, Zenith Corporation, and the Gerber Company for many years. Carol enjoyed knitting and crocheting items for her family and friends.

Carol will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her husband of sixty-two years, Larry Renbarger of Three Oaks; only son, Jim (Holly) Renbarger of Three Oaks; two grandchildren, Destiny Renbarger, Devon Renbarger, both of Three Oaks; two sisters, Mildred Dickover of Steger, Illinois, Dot (Greg) Myers-Siuda of Three Oaks; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Richard Myers, Bob Myers.

Family and friends will gather from 11:00 a.m. until time of service at 12:00 noon, Thursday, June 13, 2024, in Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks.

Carol will be laid to rest in Riverside Cemetery, Chikaming Township.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

HOROSCOPE

JUNE 13-19, 2024

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

You may feel challenged by limitations or frustrated by restrictions this week and public relations could get a bit hairy. You may not be able to go with your own ideas, which of course are fabulous, but stay within the parameters of someone else's vision.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Unfortunately, life will be very unpredictable and flippant this week, but you will get some clarity on who is talking to who, and which conversations are on the up and up. The important thing is to not take things personally or react immediately. Wait and process, then react.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Let your work speak for itself. Don't try to convince associates or assure others of your abilities or plans, just do it. You may be too emotional or passionate about the issue and run the risk of looking kooky and hair brained if you try to explain. Conversations could get kind of explosive

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Know your limits, especially your financial limits. Guard against paying for everything when going out with friends. Party time could get a bit pricey, when dealing with champagne tastes on a shoestring budget. Be very clear about how much you can spend before going out.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

You have a lot on your plate this week and may be forced into picking up the slack for others as well. So, be sure to put up a good boundary and be totally honest about what you can and can't do. Better to let something go than to get into a jam and not be able to complete the job.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

This is not the time to force conversations or push to control the schedule of coworkers. Let any petty quarrels go and don't get caught up in competitive dramas. It's best to keep the idea of teamwork fully employed by sharing the workload and encouraging each other.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Don't get discouraged if you don't get the promotion or praise you had hoped for. You may not get rewarded publicly or in a way that draws attention, but the powers that be will make sure you get the confirmation you need. Pay attention to the little things and you'll see it.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Your homelife could get a little shaky now. If you are working on a remodel or building a home, there could be some delays. It has more to do with man power and availability of goods than with faulty equipment or legal issues. There is a sense of abandonment here.

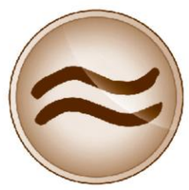
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

There is an opportunity to make some extra money right now, but there is a part of you that is fearful the job will take too long, or not be worth the efforts. The good thing is it appears it will be worth the effort but there's a real chance it could take twice as long.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

This is the time of year when you have the best opportunities for relationships. Unfortunately, this week you feel more like going it alone. Perhaps it's time to make more of an effort to connect with others and share your time with that special someone more freely.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



There is a tendency to be overly competitive or controlling now. Don't try to make someone stick to a schedule you know is hectic or force someone to work overtime. Allow for others to work within their own time frames and stay focused on your own issues.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

Drop the score cards and stop keeping track of all the things you haven't accomplished. Focus on the brighter side of issues. It will be very easy to fall into stereotypical traps and limitations. Rather than seeing division and separation, see the connections and the shared talents.

Happiness depends upon ourselves.
— Aristotle

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

		1					4	
8	2		5	9		7	1	
			8	1		5		9
5			1					
	7		3			1	2	
2				8				
	9	3		5		2		
	8							
					7			

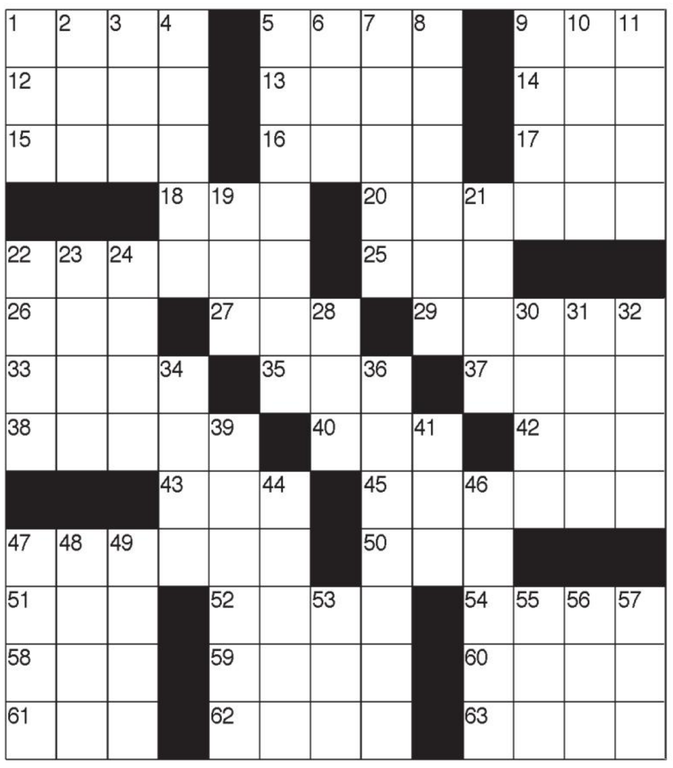
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Pork (Fr.)
5 Larva
9 Antiballistic Missile (abbr.)
12 Scientific name (suf.)
13 Harangue
14 Mine (Sp.)
15 Boat
16 Border
17 Haw. garland
18 Tattle
20 Gila
22 Pac. island
25 "Fables in Slang" author
26 Soul or spirit (Fr.)
27 Sayings (suf.)
29 Auricular
33 Antenna
35 Give (Scot.)
37 Latite
38 Indian tea
40 No middle initial (abbr.)
42 Shipshaped
43 River rapids
45 Dark volcanic rock
47 Group of fish
50 Malt liquor
51 Antiaircraft artillery (abbr.)
52 Ananias
54 Post
58 Bikini top
59 Amalekite king
60 Assuage
61 Decrease
62 Whole (pref.)
63 Freedman in Kentish law

DOWN

1 Aunt (Sp.)
2 Mother of Hezekia
3 Top
4 Irish exclamation
5 Presa (2 words)
6 P.I. volcano
7 Emerge
8 Yearly church payment
9 Pressure
10 And
11 Birth a lamb
19 Stinging insect
21 Indiana (abbr.)
22 Trolley
23 Daughter of Zeus
24 Insert (2 words)
26 Rom. box
30 Colza
32 Berne's river
33 Roast
36 Noun-forming (suf.)
39 Guido's note (2 words)
43 Almost
46 Grape disease
47 Christmas (abbr.)
48 Gaming cubes
50 Ship of the Argonauts
53 Fluidity unit
55 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
56 Ultimate degree
57 To (Scot.)



Three Oaks celebrates 125 years of Dewey Cannon

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

For a moment, it was as though President WIlliam McKinley himself had traveled through time to pay a visit again to Dewey Cannon Park in Three Oaks.

Clad in a black suit and a black top hat, Gene Svebakken, chair of the Three Oaks Planning Commission, congratulated the townspeople on winning the coveted Dewey Cannon.

"I am glad to observe the patriotic purpose of this people to preserve in memory, for all you may come after, the lesson of the great achievements of the American Navy. It has been given to few navies of the world to win such signal and memorable triumph" said to a crowd of people at the park Saturday, June 8.

The reenactment, which was held in conjunction with The Region of Three Oaks Museum and Harbor Arts, was a part of the cannon's 125th anniversary celebration.

The United States Monument Community offered a challenge to America's 3,000 cities and towns to fund a monument at Arlington National Cemetery, which would honor the 266 U.S. soldiers who were killed when the USS Maine was blown up in Havana, Cuba, which ignited The Spanish-American War.

The city or town that raised the most money per capita would receive a cannon that was captured by the U.S. Commodore George Dewey in the Battle of Manila Bay.

Through a fundraising effort, titled "Three Oaks Against the World," Three Oaks' per capital contribution was $1.41, which would be valued at $37 today.

On July 14, 1899, village president E.K. Warren, who spearheaded the fundraising effort, received a telegram: Three Oaks had won the competition.

In October 1899, President McKinley paid a visit to Three Oaks. Ahead of the cannon's June 28, 1900, unveiling, villagers were told to expect crowds of 10 or 20 times Three Oaks' population of 885.

On that day, Chuck Sittig of the TROTOM Board of Directors, who was acting as Warren, told the crowd that "ordinary business and manufacturing" would be suspended, village water would be used "economically" to have in reserve in the water tower in case of a fire and American flags would be displayed on all business houses and private residences.

"Earnest, hearty cooperation on the part of all is urged, and this request is issued in the interest of the good name of our village and to ensure comfort to our guests," he said.

Guests enjoyed music from the South Shore Concert Band, which was the season opener for this year's Music in the Park, as well as an ice cream social and artifacts from the 1900 celebration.

Randy Miller, president of the museum board, showed a cleaver that was a gift from President McKinley to Alec Watson, the town butcher, who started A. Watson & Son meat market after the Civil War. Per the Berrien County Historical Association's The Docket newsletter from 2006, the market became Drier Meat Market when Watson sold it to Edward T. Drier.

"Alec Watson gave this to him as a gift, so he kept this and somehow, it ended up in the hands of the Michigan Historical Society and that's where we're borrowing it from now," he said.

Judy Jackson from The Region of Three Oaks Museum discusses artifacts from the cannon's unveiling

Members of the younger generation enjoy the Dewey Cannon

A crowd gathers to enjoy music at Dewey Cannon Park

Visitors stood in line for ice cream at Dewey Cannon Park

President Mcinley (aka Gene Svebarkken) addresses the crowd

EK Warren (aka Chuck Sittig) instructs villagers how to behave ahead of the cannon's unveiling

The South Shore Concert Band performs in the park

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New gravel trail at Nature Preserve

BY STAN MADDUX

A new public trail opened Thursday, June 6 at a 93 acre wooded nature preserve in Michigan City.

The trail is at the Amber Flatwoods Nature Preserve on Meer Road just south of U.S 12 near Michigan City Municipal Airport.

The 3,600 foot long mostly level trail has a smooth gravel surface making it easier to navigate especially for people with physical challenges and in wheelchairs along with individuals pushing baby strollers.

Eight boardwalks over wetland areas were also built into the trail on the property acquired from the Shirley Heinze Land Trust in 2023 by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

"It's a fresh acquisition. A fresh protection for conservation and we look forward to managing it," said Derek Nimetz, an ecologist for the DNR Division of Nature Preserves near Valparaiso.

Both organizations did most of the work to create the trail, except for the parking lot put down and striped by a contractor.

It's the first trail with a gravel surface at the nature preserve, which has about four miles of trails with dirt surfaces and the roots of trees, which pose a tripping hazard, running over the top in spots.

"This is definitely more of an improvement out here," said Doug Botka, a Stewardship Ecologist for the SHLT.

About a dozen people involved in the project were taken on a guided hike.

The trail loops back to the parking lot but also has connections with the existing dirt paths for extended hikes.

"This is a great addition to what was already here," said Claudia Wood, who monitors the trails for any repairs or litter that need addressing as a volunteer for the land trust.

There are also signs along the way containing information about the trail and the nature preserve.

Dr. Shirley Heinze was a psychologist at the University of Illinois in Chicago and had a beach home in Ogden Dunes.

She had an interest in land conservation and was involved in early efforts to preserve the Indiana Dunes along the Lake Michigan shoreline in Porter and La Porte counties.

Heinze died in her 50's from lymphoma.

With a $30,000 endowment, some of her patients wanting to do something in her memory created the Shirley Heinze Land Trust and organization in 1981 to acquire and preserve land deserving protection.

Currently, the group has over 3,000 acres of land under its protection in La Porte, Porter, Lake, St. Joseph, Starke and Marshall counties.

"Shirley never knew about this organization. She was the inspiration for it and it lives on," said Ron Trigg.

Trigg of Valparaiso is a former longtime executive director of the organization and current member of the group's advisory board.

The nature preserve in Michigan City features more than 600 species of plants with some not found anywhere else in Indiana.

Eric Bird, an ecologist with the land trust, said the term flatwoods means the ground is closer to the water table, leaving it prone to flooding in the spring and winter.

Bird said such moist conditions make it great habitat for a wide variety of plants and wildlife, including many native species, particularly frogs, toads and salamanders.

One of the most unique aspects of the nature preserve is how it has some of the species normally found in Michigan and other places further north because of its close proximity to the southern border of that state.

"It's one of the most bio-diverse places in the area," he said.

Bird said the new trail is the third gravel one at nature preserves under the wing of the land trust, which likes how they open up nature preserves for all people to enjoy not just the ones wanting a more rugged experience.

'This is a really big effort to make places more accessible," he said.

Missing tire driver charged with OWI

BY STAN MADDUX

A man who kept driving with a flat front tire after crashing was allegedly found to be impaired by alcohol in northern La Porte County.

Dean Seber, 56, was charged with operating while intoxicated after refusing to take a certified blood alcohol test.

Just before 5 a.m. on Friday, June 7, La Porte County Police were contacted about a reckless driver traveling despite missing a tire in the area of U.S. 20 and Indiana 2 near Rolling Prairie.

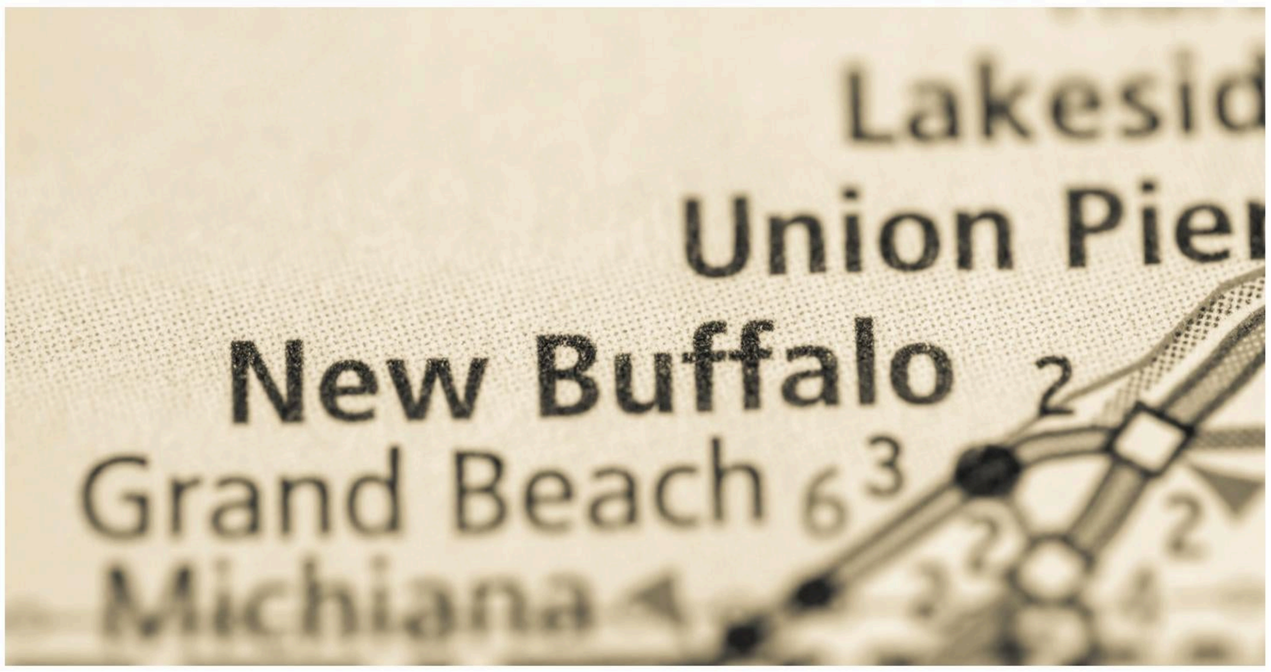
During a traffic stop, the investigation showed his front passenger side tire was flattened from striking a guard rail in St. Joseph County, police said.

Police said the tire came off the rim at some point before a motorist called 911 during the four miles he kept driving until pulling over in his 2018 Dodge Ram on the shoulder of Indiana 2.

Seber claimed to have consumed "three whiskey and cokes" with the last one being around midnight, police said.

According to police, a portable breathalyzer test showed the Mishawaka man's blood alcohol level was more than twice the .08 percent legal limit.

Since PBT results are not admissible in court, police said he was offered to take a certified blood alcohol test but he refused, which led to his automatic arrest under Indiana law for OWI.



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PET OF THE WEEK

SARGE

Sarge is described as a lanky, silly, dopey, hilarious Scooby-Doo/Marmaduke look-alike, and acts like it He currently weighs about 70 pounds, and very tall while standing on his back legs. He is child- and dog-friendly, neutered, and up-to-date with his vaccinations. He loves treats, has pretty decent manners, likes to jump up, but he is a fast learner—it's a breeze to teach him. Sarge would love to be your jogging partner, as he's an energetic boy so daily exercise would be beneficial for him.

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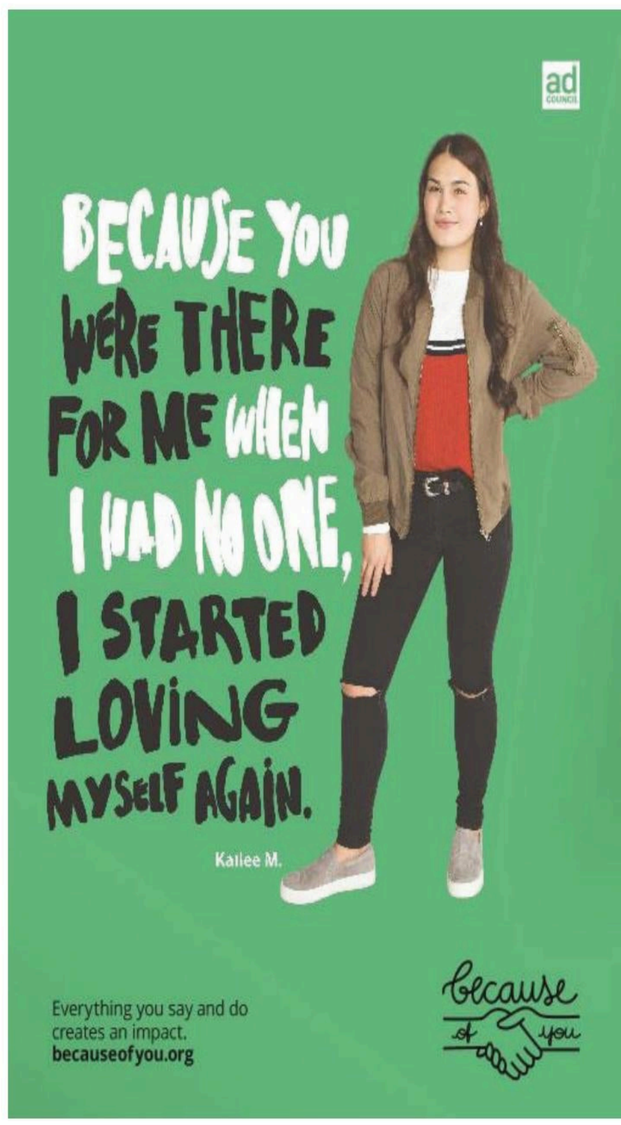
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Guests enjoy the bar area at Tapa Taco

Guests enjoy the screened in porch at Tapa Taco

Tapa Taco invites guests to sample a little of everything

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Just like its name, Tapa Taco invites guests to try a little bit of everything off its menu.

In Spain, a "tapa," which is derived from the Spanish word tapar, or "to cover," is an appetizer or snack of Spanish cuisine. According to chef Eduardo Pesantez, people in Spain frequent tapa restaurants, which feature small dishes.

"Most of the restaurants in Spain are tapas restaurants because a lot of people like to go and drink wine and try this, try this and try this - so that's kind of the idea for the tapas," he said.

After cutting the ribbon on the restaurant, which is located inside of the historic Gordon Beach Inn in Union Pier, Wednesday, June 5, innkeeper Sam Darrigrand said that he was seeking a "good taco and margarita joint" in the area.

Pesantez, who's from Ecuador, said he'd be willing to partner with them.

"So I was like, 'We're not just sticking with Mexico,'" Darrigrand, who manages the Gordon Beach Inn and Lakeside Inn, said.

The restaurant features tacos and South American small plates. Dishes were added from Ecuador, Venezuela and Cuba. Darrigrand said he also drew inspiration from visits to his younger brother, who currently lives in Brazil.

Rachel Watkins, Eduardo Pesantez, Sam Darrigrand, Zac Zitske, Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kimberlee Wendt, chamber member development manager Patty Knicker, Jessica Nance and Jon Bonkoske cut the ribbon in the dining room

"One of my favorite things from Brazil - I was describing it to Eduardo and his wife, Myra, and I was like 'It's little bread balls, they're made with this flour' and Myra said, 'That's panda de yuca" but in Portuguese it's Pao de Queijo ….So we were able to add some things that have origins from multiple countries," he said.

Zack Zitske, who's the owner of the Lakeside Inn and Gordon Beach Inn and part owner of Tapa Taco, created a mascot: a "little taco guy," as Darrigrand refers to it, that consists of colors from the Ecuadorian and Venezuelan flags.

Having arrived in America from Ecuador when he was 19, Pesantez said he gained a wealth of culinary knowledge from attending the Culinary Institute of America and working at a well-known Benton Harbor, Michigan, restaurant.

He also was previously the chef for The Grove, which was located in the space that is now occupied by Tapa Racos in Gordon Beach Inn.

Pesantez said that Tapas Tacos specializes in a specific type of taco.

"I said, let's do tacos but it's got to be gourmet," he said, adding that the tacos are grilled and have more flavor.

The restaurant features an dining room area as well as a dining area near the bar in a back room. Guests can also dine outdoors on two screened in patios.

Colorful sculptures, which were created by Zitske, line the beams overlooking the dining room.

"I'm very excited for what we're bringing to the area," he said.

Tapa Taco is located at 16220 Lakeshore Road in Union Pier.

For more information, call 269-934-9700,w or visit their Facebook page.

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JUNE 14

Red Wanting Blue
Chicago Farmer & The Fieldnotes
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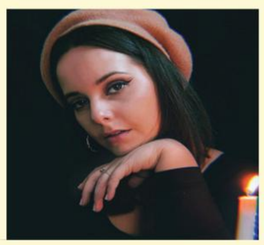
DAY TWO

JUNE 15

The Verve Pipe
Lilly Hiatt • Joe Pug • Fox Crossing
Stringband • Gerald Dowd • Eric O'Daly
Naomi Ashley & Jon Williams

JUNE 16



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